Fertility of Land

†3830. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while fertility of land is diminishing due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, many problems like poisoning of ground water, fall in quality of foodgrains, difficulties to birds are cropping up; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to promote use of bio-fertilizers/insecticides, instead of chemical fertilizers and insecticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Fertilizer consumption in India in nutrient terms being about 95 Kg. per hect. (1999-2000) is not considered quite high when compared with the consumption in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Japan, U.K. and Netherlands which is 113, 135, 160, 375, 379 and 542 Kg. per hec. respectively. The present level of fertilizer consumption in the country precludes possibilities of ground-water pollution and any other adverse effects.

(b) The Government is promoting use of fertilizers based on soil tests. Besides, the concept of Balanced and Integrated Use of Plant Nutrients is being advocated for encouraging enhanced use of bio-fertilizers, compost, manure and green manuring in order to sustain fertility of the soils. The Government is also advocating eco-friendly approach with increased use of biological and neem based chemical control measures as an approach to integrated Pest Management.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.